program codes for displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen;

program codes for selecting, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the list including the plurality of displayed character strings; and

program codes for causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 2, 2002. Claims 1 to 43 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 to 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 20 to 24, 27, 29, 30, 35 and 38 to 43 having been amended. Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,396 (Salm) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,426 (Ohkado). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns character processing. According to the invention, a list including a plurality of registered character strings is displayed on a display screen. A user selects a character string from among the displayed list, and the selected character string is caused to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor. As a result, a registered character string can be selected from a list and then displayed on a display screen at another position in a relatively simple manner.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a character processing method, comprising the steps of displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen, selecting, based on a user instruction, a character string from among the displayed list including the plurality of character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

Amended independent Claims 20, 41 and 43 are apparatus, computer-readable medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen, selecting a character string from among the displayed list, and causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

Salm is seen to disclose a telephone in which a user presses a character key that corresponds to a character string. Based on the input character, a memory is searched to find a character string that corresponds the closest to the input character. Therefore, Salm merely displays one character string that corresponds closest to the input character, but does not display a list of registered character strings on a display. Moreover, since Salm does not display a list of registered character strings, Salm fails to teach selection of a character sting from among the displayed list. In addition, Salm fails to teach that the

selected character string is caused to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

The Office Action took the position that Salm selects a character string from a group of characters, and while this may be true in that Salm selects a character string that corresponds closest to an input character, and selects the string from among a group, the group of character strings is not displayed on a display screen so that a user can select one string from the listed group. Accordingly, Salm is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

Ohkado is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Salm and is merely seen to disclose editing a character string by moving a cursor to a position within the string to perform the editing operation. When the editing operation is performed, a digit separator (comma) is inserted in the numerical string and the cursor is moved to a position to the right of the edited number. Thus, Ohkado merely teaches placing the cursor at a position where an editing operation is to be performed. However, Ohkado does not disclose or suggest that a character string, that is selected from a list of registered character strings that are displayed on a display, is caused to be displayed on a display screen at the position pointed by the cursor.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Salm and Ohkado.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A character processing method, comprising the steps of:

displaying [performing at-a-glance display of] a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen;

selecting, based on a user instruction, [allowing] a character string [to be selected by a user] from among the displayed list including the plurality of character strings; and

causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

2. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the selection of the character string is achieved by an instruction which designates a position in a region of the display screen in which the character string to be selected is displayed.

3. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the plurality of character strings is displayed [performed] on a soft keyboard display screen.

4. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the plurality of character strings is displayed [performed] in accordance with an instruction given through a soft keyboard display screen.

5. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 4, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the plurality of character strings is displayed in place of the soft keyboard display screen, in response to said instruction.

8. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the registered character strings is displayed [performed] on a display screen which is displayed to enable entry of a character string to be added to image information.

10. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the registered character strings is displayed [performed] on a display screen which is displayed to enable entry of a character string designating a destination to which information is to be sent.

11. (Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of] including the registered character strings is displayed [implemented] on an operation panel of a copying machine.

16. (Twice Amended) A character processing method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

[allowing selection of] selecting a desired character string to be edited from among the displayed list of character strings [for an editorial work];

receiving an editorial instruction indicating [the editorial work] an editing operation to be effected on the selected character string;

effecting the [editorial work] editing operation on the selected character string in accordance with the editorial instruction [on the selected character string]; and

updating the registered character strings in accordance with the result of the [editorial work] editing operation.

20. (Twice Amended) A character processing apparatus, comprising:

[at-a-glance] list displaying means for displaying [performing at-a-glance display of] a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen;

selecting means for selecting, based on a user instruction, [enabling] a character string [to be selected by a user] from among the displayed list including the plurality of character strings; and

displaying means for displaying the selected character string on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

21. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said selecting means selects the character string in accordance with an instruction which designates a position in a region of the display screen in which the character string to be selected is displayed.

22. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said [at-a-glance] list displaying means displays [comprises means for displaying] the list on a soft keyboard display screen.

23. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of the character strings] is displayed [performed] in accordance with an instruction given through a soft keyboard display screen.

24. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the list [at-a-glance display of the character strings] is displayed in place of the soft keyboard display screen, in response to said instruction.

27. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said list [at-a-glance] displaying means displays the list on a display screen to enable entry of a character string to be added to image information.

29. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said list [at-a-glance] displaying means displays the list on a display screen to enable entry of a character string designating a destination to which information is to be sent.

30. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said list [at-a-glance] displaying means comprises an operation panel of a copying machine.

35. (Twice Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising:

selecting means for [allowing selection of] selecting a desired character string to be edited from among the displayed list of character strings [for an editorial work];

inputting means for enabling input of an editorial instruction indicating [the editorial work] an editing operation to be effected on the selected character string;

editing means for effecting the [editorial work] editing operation on the selected character string in accordance with the editorial instruction [on the selected character string]; and

updating means for updating the registered character strings in accordance with the result of the [editorial work] editing operation.

38. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said [at-a-glance] list displaying means further comprises a soft keyboard displaying means for displaying a soft keyboard as a display screen through which said editorial instruction is input.

39. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the update performed by said updating means includes addition of a character string to the registered character strings.

40. (Amended) A character processing apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the update performed by said updating means includes deletion of a character string to the registered character strings.

41. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which are stored program codes for an image processing method, the program codes comprising:

program codes for displaying [performing at-a-glance display of] a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen;

program codes for selecting, based on a user instruction, [allowing] a character string [to be selected by a user] from among the list including plurality of displayed character strings; and

program codes for causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

42. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein the program codes further comprise:

program codes for [allowing selection of] selecting a desired character string to be edited from among [out of] the displayed list of character strings [for an editorial operation];

program codes for receiving an editorial instruction indicating [the editorial] an editing operation to be effected on the selected character string;

program codes for effecting the [editorial] editing operation on the selected character string in accordance with the editorial instruction [on the selected character string]; and

program codes for updating the registered character strings in accordance with the result of the [editorial] editing operation.

43. (Amended) A character processing program including computer-implemental program codes, comprising:

program codes for displaying [performing at-a-glance display of] a list including a plurality of registered character strings on a display screen;

program codes for selecting, based on a user instruction, [allowing] a character string [to be selected by a user] from among the list including the plurality of displayed character strings; and

program codes for causing the selected character string to be displayed on the display screen at a position pointed by a cursor.

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